



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
Bay-Delta Office
801 I Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814-2536

IN REPLY REFER TO:
BDO-150
ENV-7.00

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Dr. Cliff Dahm
Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Yolo Bypass Analytical Tool Independent Review

Dear Dr. Dahm:

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources, we would like to request an external peer review by the Delta Science Program (DSP). Specifically, we would like a review of the analytical methods and models being used in the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project (YBSHRFPP) Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), which we anticipate releasing as a public draft in late October. Additionally, many of these analytical methods and models will be used in the Biological Assessment (BA) that is being developed as part of the environmental compliance process associated with the YBSHRFPP. It is our hope that a panel with expertise in fishery, population biology, and hydrodynamic modeling can review the tools and methodology used in the EIS/EIR and the BA.

The focus of an independent review organized by the DSP would be to obtain the views of the panel experts on whether the analytical methods and models reflect the best available science regarding potential impacts of Yolo Bypass fishery habitat restoration and fish passage. The scope would mainly be specific questions related to the models and methods developed for evaluating the alternatives regarding fisheries, waterfowl, and agricultural economics. We expect the planning committee will be able to create a more detailed charge once the public draft EIS/EIR and the Administrative BA are closer to completion.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Dr. Joshua Israel at jaisrael@usbr.gov or 916-414-2417.

Sincerely,

Michelle Banonis
Area Manager

cc: See next page.

cc: Mr. Paul Souza
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